

A black bear is the central focus of the cover, wearing a yellow and red plaid shirt. The bear is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a wooden wall.

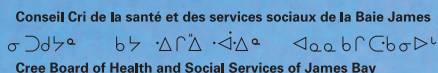
Nation

Volume 19, No. 09 • March 9, 2012

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Since March 2011, the progress of the development of the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program has evolved and it will continue to be dynamic to the specific needs of Eeyou/Eenou.

The intent of the program is bringing back traditional approach and healing, as the Nishiyyuu way.

The significant source and realized of making the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program are the Regional Elders Council, Abraham Bearskin, Janie Pachano, Sam W. Gull, and professional expertise from Tulshi Sen Consulting. The partnerships in action and successful drivers in promoting this program are the Regional Elders Council, Cree Nation Youth Council, Niskamoon and Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee.

Briefly, the overall component of Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program is a personal development program that empowers the individual by cutting through the debris of their past conditioning, limitations and giving the individual the key to self-identity. It is designed for the individuals to discover and re-create themselves, find their purpose, realize that they can set a vision, and manifest their vision. The purpose of this program is to create a new mindset, the Nishiiyuu Way, the Wisdom of which is to be transferred and transmitted by the Elders to the younger generations.

With the *Train the Trainer Program*, the Nishiiyuu Way is designed to develop Trainers and Trainees belonging to Eeyou/Eenou culture, to deliver the Nishiiyuu Way of Personal Development Program to their own people. In this first series of training, the trainers will be given what life skills is all about, what it's purpose is, and how to deliver it. And they will be given the know-how of life skills of Nishiiyuu Way. Upon completion of training, the team of trainers will be coaching, inspiring and training to unleash

a force to challenge the social problems that are predominant in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

From 23rd to 27th of January 2012, a seminar was administered to the trainers, along with the Elders Council in Val d'Or, QC. The seminar was built to awaken, inspire and build. The trainers were introduced to the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program about its description, concept, purpose, benefits and more importantly, the emphasis that the trainers will become the Nishiiyuu Way. Furthermore, an awareness and orientation tool titled 'James Bay Cree and Social Impacts of Regional Historic Events' prepared by Janie Pachano, B.Com., M.B.A. was distributed to the trainers. This document will be of assistance and provide a historical knowledge for the trainers. Upon completion of the seminar, the trainers were empowered and motivated to pursue the Nishiiyuu Way and looking forward to completing the training and prepare to deliver the workshop on Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program to Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

The "*Train the Trainer Program*" will now be in progress for the actual training, which consists of three weeks. The two consecutive week training will commence on February 13th to 24th, 2012 in Gatineau, QC., and the final week is scheduled for March 19th to 23rd, 2012, which location is yet to be determined.

In the near future, a list of successful trainers will be presented and that the Nishiiyu Miyupimaatisiin will ensure that the Workshops of Nishiiyu Life Skills Program will be carried out in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee. Meegwetch!

For further information, please feel free to contact the following:

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Dealing with the First Nations

By Will Nicholls

These days Canadians cannot say they aren't aware of some of the issues First Nations face. Attawapiskat showed housing and living conditions in many northern Aboriginal communities. Yet there are many communities like Attawapiskat throughout Canada and this problem is becoming too large to ignore by mainstream media and society.

Economic development is hamper by widespread unemployment in almost every First Nation's community. The figures are staggering and have been for decades.

Health issues range from birth with fetal alcohol syndrome, obesity, diabetes and a host of problems related to living conditions. Food prices have soared to never seen before heights as a result of the changes to the northern subsidies made by the Harper government. What was supposed to help in making healthy choices has instead made life even more difficult for First Nations' residents.

Educational standards and facilities are well below norm and in some cases do not even exist. This has been said and reported on over and over.

The blame game puts the onus on First Nations for the problems they face. One only has to look at Attawapiskat where their problems saw the Feds putting them under third-party management. It was a blatant attempt to submerge the real issues under accusations of corrupt politicians and fiscal mismanagement. It was even suggested the reserve be abandoned or was that nearby Kashechewan?

Even the response to the dire need for housing saw the Feds purchase 22 mobile homes as a result of public pressure and the costs will ultimately come out of the community's budget. Some Canadians though feel this is just another

example of a government "handout" for First Nations that continue the circle of reliance that Natives have to get away from. Others applaud the government's actions as subtracting the money from the regular budget ensures that Attawapiskat will have to take responsibility for the future of its community.

On the Aboriginal and supporters side, many point out the treaties (and lack of them) that Canada has to live up to. They point out it was the government that created the Indian Act, residential schools and programs and policies that led to the Buffalo Jump Program (make living on the reservation so bad people would move to towns and cities), the Sixties Scoop (adoption of Native children by non-Natives) and more. The government should fix the problem it created in order to keep Canada's reputation unblemished.

When you talk to Canadians (not necessarily the politicians) many want the problems fixed. They are ashamed of what they see and how it looks to other countries. It will take more than political will to ensure real change takes place. Real economies have to be developed beyond just resource development projects, such as mining or forestry, that have limited economic benefits. While this will be difficult in the North surely business and the government can find some viable solutions.

It will not be an overhaul of the Indian Act that will suddenly make everything all right. It will be measurable change consisting of many failures, but as well there will be results we can all applaud.

It is time for all Canadians to work together to solve the difficulties First Nations have to live with.

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photo by:
Will Nicholls

What's our rating?

By Sonny Orr



I once heard a lawyer mention off-hand that if there was a heap of Indians, the Cree would be on top of that heap. Now, why would anyone say something like that? The comment made me wonder if he was serious and I looked at him, very seriously, and asked why he said it?

At that time, we Cree were working on numerous agreements to get more cash flow into the now low-interest-return bank accounts. I wondered if that was a general rating that he came up with. If we were on top of the heap, who were we sitting on top of?

Looking back at that time, which was around the time when the Internet appeared, just around the era when you could become an overnight Internet billionaire by selling some smart domain name. Or you were a whiz kid who made a site that counted other people's money for example, and then sold it to Bill Gates, who either attached it to one of his monster-selling programs or forgot about it. Yet, at some point in time, it would reappear as an app for the iPhone or iPad. In those days, Apple was a little company that had big dreams, just like the Cree.

However, the difference between Apple Inc. and Cree Inc. was that the entire staff of Apple outnumbered the population of the Cree. And the money that was made by Microsoft was around the same amount that Quebec could muster by producing large projects that could only fit in the backyards of the Cree, whereas Apple products would eventually fit into your shirt pocket.

Today, the Cree or any other First Nation with perhaps the reserves with oil patches, wineries and expensive ski resorts or golf clubs are exceptions. The ability to reach the top of the heap has become almost insurmountable, unless you have oodles of funds sitting around in various bonds and securities making interest.

Now that interest rates are extremely low, just check your bank accounts and see if you made any interest yet to

confirm what I am saying. You will notice the money that sits there doesn't make the cut anymore. In fact, keeping your money safely in a bank account just means that the banks can safely charge you for their services. Some even charge large amounts (comparatively speaking) just to access your own money.

One \$13 transaction I made cost me an extra \$5 in service charges, which added up to 18 bucks for a pack of cigarettes! Now, where am I going with this you might ask? We are sliding down that heap pretty fast, as everyone around is now making large deals with resource companies and foreign investors because if we don't, someone else will do it instead. So, we are forced to remain at the top of the heap, just because of necessity.

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if we didn't do this. Would we slip into a worse situation than we are now, or would we succeed without anyone's help? Sometimes it scares me knowing that if we didn't do anything about the world around us, then the world would eventually cover us up and flatten the heap until it looked like the rest of the country. No, I say, you can't keep this heap out of the picture. One day, this heap will turn into a solid hill and then it just might become a mountain of opportunities. Then we would take others into our folds and teach them how to climb the heap and make mountains out of it.

When we become our own Everest, and scaling the heights of success for good reasons, and not just because it is there, but because for our own future, it will be necessary to learn how to be at the top of the heap and stay there. One may think that I advocate this type of language. But hey, if a lawyer can use this term about his own clients, then so can I repeat it until it becomes a standard saying? For our sake and our internal rating system, I say, why not.

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Setting the lands in order

McGill's law faculty cross-examines Charest's Plan Nord

By Shaun Malley

You know something big is afoot when a considerable smattering of sharp-dressed young people brave subzero temperatures early on a Saturday morning in the middle of winter. That was the case on the morning of February 11 at McGill University's Chancellor Day Hall. Everyone was on hand to hear different takes on the Plan Nord, the controversial \$80 billion development blueprint drawn up by the Charest government.

The talk, sponsored by an environmental outreach initiative of Hydro-Québec, gathered chiefs, lawyers and academics on a pair of panels. It attracted spectators from many walks of life, all curious to hear hard facts about the Plan beyond its much-touted financial potential.

"I keep hearing a lot about this Plan Nord," said Pamela Meloni, a warmly-dressed 20-something. She's Belgian and doing an internship with the Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE). "I wanted to learn the Native perspective, which I've never heard before."

She was not disappointed. The talk began with the traditional custom of acknowledging the people of the territory on which a gathering takes place. The Elders say the land we now call Montreal is a place of trade, and trade they did. Quips, points, counterpoints and other forms of occasionally tense but mainly civil discourse followed.

At opposite ends of the spectrum were Harry Tulugak of Puvirnituk, strong detractor of the Plan, and fervent defender John Paul Murdoch, a Wemindji-based lawyer. Tough questions and complex challenges about the future of the north were picked apart, chief among them being who gets what, who wins and who loses.

"If 50% of the land is being preserved, does that mean 50% of the land is being destroyed?" asked Tulugak dur-

ing his panel discussion, in reference to the Plan's aim of leaving half the north untouched. "There are always going to be winners and losers when talking about economic development. It's potentially wonderful but potentially terrible."

Tulugak, long-time advocate for greater autonomy in his home region of Nunavik, made several references to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). The agreement – "spilled milk" Tulugak said he has cried over for many years now – laid the foundation for the Plan Nord. A fervent believer in the traditional Inuit value of sharing, he claimed to see little of it in the Plan.

"In 1975, the Cree and Inuit surrendered the land," he said referring to the JBNQA. "Sharing was the principle which made us survive. Who owns the land? Where is the sharing? We're losing this fantastic principle which made us survive. We are not going to be spectators anymore."

After a break, the discussion continued with a panel on the Plan Nord in action. Murdoch went to great lengths to tout the potential benefits of the Plan. In the interests of full disclosure, he did admit that Charest wrote the letter of recommendation that got him into law school.

Murdoch spoke at length about his uncle, Billy Diamond, and the positive developments he helped foster. Describing the late chief as "loud and proud – in that order" to appreciative laughter from the audience, he saw the Plan as a continuation of Diamond's work.

"I'm a fan of the Plan because it puts a value on the north," Murdoch said. "We [the Cree of Eeyou Istchee] have a right to sit at a table and negotiate with a CEO from Australia or Montana. The expectations on the government are



Eeyou lawyer John Paul Murdoch looks to panelist Aurélie Arnaud of Quebec Native Women

photo by Shaun Malley

high, and without political will it'll be like picking water up with your hands."

Blasting the concept of Native consultation as "naive" and "insulting", Murdoch called for a more concrete stewardship of the land with greater Aboriginal involvement. Regarding sustainable economic development, he made an analogy to illustrate the harmonized financial concerns with the state of the land.

"It's a case of Mad Men guys versus LL Bean guys," said Murdoch, comparing company executives to the characters of the AMC TV series. "I can deal with the Mad Men guys but I'll always need the LL Bean guys, too."

Panelist Aurélie Arnaud, the Communications Officer of the Quebec Native Women group, was on hand to discuss the place of women in the Plan Nord. She took issue with Murdoch's analogy, stating that anyone who watched the show would know it was not good for women. Some in the audience laughed, though the temperature of the room dipped a bit.

After the panel split up, a buffet from a Kahnawake caterer was laid out for all to eat. Tulugak's words resonated as everyone shared these fruits of Native labour. The Plan Nord has the potential to nourish many in the same way – how it will happen remains to be seen.

THIS EVENT IS APPROVED BY THE E.I.S.R.A.



20th Annual Minor Hockey & Broomball Tournament

On behalf of the C.R.E.E. (Cree Regional Events & Entertainment) and the Cree Nation Recreation Directors, it is with great pleasure to invite all interested teams to the 20th Annual Minor Hockey & Broomball Tournament scheduled to be held in **Val d'or**, Qc. between **April 5th to 8th, 2012**.

Over ninety (90) teams will be participating in seventeen (17) categories as indicated below. To register your team(s), please contact the registrar.

OPEN HOCKEY CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	BORN	FEE (\$)	TEAMS
Pre-Novice Hockey	January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007	300	16
Novice Hockey (Recreational)	January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004	300	10
Novice Hockey (Competitive)	January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004	300	10
Atom Hockey (Recreational)	January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002	300	10
Atom Hockey (Competitive)	January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002	300	10
Pee Wee Hockey (Recreational)	January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2000	300	10
Pee Wee Hockey (Competitive)	January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2000	300	10
Bantam Hockey (Recreational)	January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998	300	10
Bantam Hockey (Competitive)	January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998	400	10
Midget Hockey (Recreational)	January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1996	300	10
Midget Hockey (Competitive)	January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1996	400	10
Youth Girls Hockey	January 1, 1997 to December 31, 2000	300	10
Teen Girls Hockey	January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1996	300	10

GIRLS BROOMBALL CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	BORN	FEE (\$)	TEAMS
Benjamin	January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2005	300	10
Novice	January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001	300	10
Cadet	January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1999	300	10
Midget & Juvenile	January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1996	300	10

Inscription deadline for all categories is Friday, March 23, 2012 by 5:00PM

Please fax (819-825-0024) your registration forms as soon as possible.

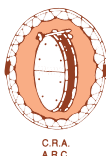
Certified checks/money orders or cash will be accepted.

In order to be accepted in the tournament, certified checks or money order must be mailed and made payable only to C.R.E.E. (Cree Regional Events & Entertainment), P.O. Box 24, Val-d'Or, Quebec J9P 4N9

INFORMATION FOR TEAM REGISTRATION

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Paving the way for future success

news

The Highway 167 extension will make more of the north accessible

By Akiva Levitas

On February 27, the Cree Nation of Mistissini finalized a work agreement with the Quebec government ensuring the First Nation has a part in the extension of Highway 167 that will stretch 250 km north of Chibougamau, through the Otish Mountains.

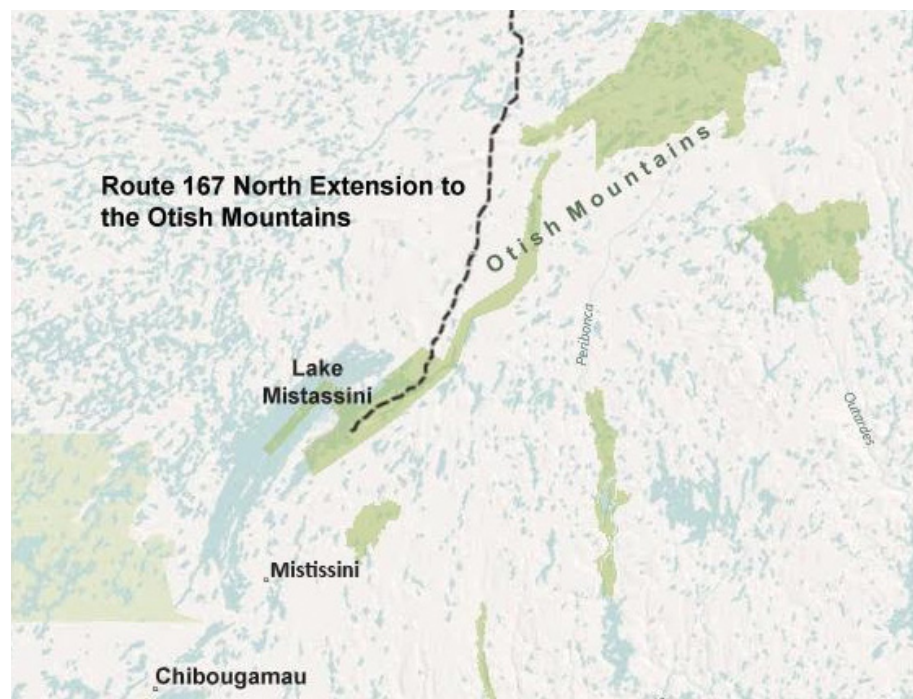
The planned extension of Highway 167 is an integral part of Premier Jean Charest's Plan Nord with a major focus on improving employment opportunities for the Aboriginal communities across northern Quebec. The project is expected to take five years to complete and it will provide road access to the various mining sites located in the area.

The Minister responsible for Native Affairs Geoffrey Kelley, Transport Minister Norman MacMillan and Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio were all on hand for the signing ceremony in Mistissini. Also in attendance was Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come who gave his blessing in regards to the agreement calling it "a bilateral partnership, based on mutual respect between our nations."

In total there were three contracts awarded to the Cree of Mistissini along with priority employment for the Cree in the mining industry being developed by the Plan Nord. The contracts are together valued at \$80 million, the largest ever for Mistissini.

The bulk of the funds will go to constructing a 61-km stretch of the highway. Around \$7.7 million will go towards the deforestation necessary for the entire project. The third contract is for the maintenance and clean up, the value of which will be released when the project moves further along.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shecapio said, "Today's announcement is not for a simple road. This is an announcement for the future of my community, of our young people who thirst for a better future, turned to new technologies but without renouncing our past and our



traditions. In this sense, this road allows us to move forward, in every sense of the word."

The expected benefits from the road extension will not be exclusively for mining and local employment. The opening of the area will provide better access to the land and trapping lines contributing to the preservation and transmission of traditional Cree values and practices. During the planning process for the project, Cree tallymen were consulted for the environmental assessment of the project and were a major part of the decision-making.

Currently, accessing the region is very difficult because of the lack of infrastructure. In the winter, the area can be reached by snowmobiles but in the summer the best way to get there is by float plane or helicopter, both of which are very expensive. This makes it difficult for some to access their ancestral territory without the help of local programs which subsidise the trips.

It will also benefit the area by opening it up to eco-tourism, wind-power

generation and forestry creating even more jobs and opportunities in the process.

Many mining rights have been acquired in the Otish Mountains region and these mines can be developed with access to roads, but the situation changes once the mines go into production such as the Renard, Matoush and Lac McLeod projects. The mineral richness of the area in resources, such as uranium, diamonds, gold, copper and molybdenum, has become the catalyst that is pushing for further northern development.

This development is a product of a new wave in the bilateral relationship between the Cree Nation and the provincial government. Every step of the way has been paved with mutual cooperation between the two parties. Shecapio said that they approached the negotiations to "ensure the maximum benefits for community members and [that] our region has a major impact on the future development in numerous industries."

Attawapiskat receives modular homes from Ottawa

Attawapiskat will be receiving 22 modular homes funded by the federal government to aid those affected by urgent health and safety concerns, announced John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on February 23.

"The arrival of these modular homes demonstrates our government's commitment to the residents of Attawapiskat First Nation," said Duncan.

The Attawapiskat Nation must first prepare the lots where the modular homes will be built by completing foundation, sewage and electrical work. Residents in need are now being housed at the Healing Lodge, a service set up by the Canadian Red

Cross in order to provide safe housing to affected residents.

Duncan announced in December 2011 that his ministry is funding more than \$2.5 million for manufacturing, transportation and work needed to prepare the lots.

Two deaths in Whapmagoostui

Tears flowed February 22 in Whapmagoostui, the day of the Doris Sheshamush's funeral. "The funeral was packed," said neighbour Sonny Orr. "It's sad because it's been the fifth funeral this year."

Sheshamush was found by police frozen to death February 18 in the afternoon after allegedly leaving her house few hours earlier. She was a 42-year-old housewife, mother of four and grandmother of one who lived with partner Pierre and her four chil-

dren. "She was a nice person," said Orr.

Another death was announced on February 10: Josie Kawapit Jr. died at 17 years old of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to CBC North. The community is now mourning the deaths of these two residents.

All of us at the Nation extend our condolences to the families of both Doris Sheshamush and Josie Kawapit Jr.

Drug traffickers caught in Moose Cree and Attawapiskat

On February 16 and 17, members of the Combined Forces Organized Crime Unit with assistance from the Moosonee Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police charged two men under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.



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The police charged Rene Allen Sutherland, 39, of Timmins, with three counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking and Calvin Echum, 26, of Moose Factory, with three counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking.

The police seized \$31,050 worth of drugs before they were shipped to their respective destinations of Moose Cree and Attawapiskat.

Sutherland is scheduled to appear in court on April 10 in Moosonee, while Echum is currently being held in custody pending a court bail hearing

and around the world," according to Melanie Goodchild-Southwind, the Senior Manager of First Nations Projects of the CRC.

The satellite offices will extend the CRC's services to more remote communities in order to assure a specialized response to problems occurring within First Nations in Ontario.

The application process includes a mandatory bidder's teleconference scheduled for March 14 from 2pm to 3pm EST. The deadline to submit a formal written proposal is April 12 at 4pm.

Red Cross seeks a First Nation to house a satellite office

On October 20, 2011, the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) announced receiving a donation from the Patterson Foundation in order to support its initiative to set up on-reserve satellite offices in First Nations in both northern and southern Ontario.

Having found the location for the southern Ontario office, the CRC recently issued a request for proposals to encourage First Nations in northern Ontario to welcome an on-reserve satellite office in their community.

The CRC works to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada

Dog clinic returns to James Bay

"It's that time again.... the annual spring Dog Clinic is coming! The International Fund for Animal Welfare

(IFAW) announces its return to the James Bay communities to provide vaccinations, deworming and spaying/neutering for dogs and puppies of all ages. IFAW has been providing support and services to the James Bay Cree and their canines since 2003. Taking responsibility for your dog is your job and we can help you with that by taking care of your dog's health.

Neutering your male dog makes him less likely to look for girlfriends – he won't roam as much, pack up on females or get into fights with other males. Spaying your female dog stops her from having more puppies, making a mess and attracting multiple males.

Be part of the solution. Taking care of your dog is up to you. Come and see us. Ask your PSO for April or June dates and locations. See you in the spring!"

Contact Jan Hannah at jhannah@ifaw.org



Corrections

1. In the article, "Roadblock" (Vol. 19, No. 07, February 10, 2012), the injunction was not taken by the Cree Nation of Mistissini but by the Attorney General of Quebec, as it was situated on category III land which is considered land of the public domain belonging to the province.
2. In the article, "Unfair dismissal" (Vol. 19, No. 08, February 24, 2012), the presiding judge will not be Robert M. Mainville.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com





The outdoorsman's expo

The Nation visits the Montreal Hunting, Fishing and Camping Show

By Amy German Photos by Amy German and Will Nicholls

There is a great difference between getting back to nature and then getting back to nature in style or at least so it may seem when you go to great big hunting, fishing and camping expositions in the great big city.

From camouflage gear for every single part of your body to pretty, prissy pink fire arms for the lady of the house to fishing tackle more bedecked than a circus clown on LSD, Montreal's Hunting, Fishing and Camping Show had all of these wares and more on display for all outdoorsmen and women to see... and buy.

Running from February 23-26 at Place Bonaventure, the annual event once again brought out over 250 exhibitors to show off the latest in outdoor gear and the best of previous years.

Just like the last few years, the entrance to the event was a flurry of Browning camo gear and rifles, framed by a large-scale display of exotic taxidermy birds.

Upon further inspection, the Browning camo gear collection on display

was all from the "Dirty Bird" line – that alone brought on an ironic chuckle.

Heading over to get a glimpse of the racks of Browning rifles, the representative on hand said they had two new 12-gauge shotguns this year that they were showcasing: the A5 "Come Hell or High Water" semi auto and the new Citori 725.

According to the Browning rep, the A5 is built to be the most-reliable, fastest-cycling, best-performing and softest-shooting recoil-operated autoloader available and is ideal for the bush. He recommended the Citori 725 for sport shooting and said that it had an excellent performance for that whole "one-with-the-gun" experience.

Next, over at the Le Baron camo gear display, the first thing again to catch my eye was a Mossy Oak jacket with a hot pink zipper for the gal who wants to hit the bush.

Once again it was obvious that the show – much like the hunting, fishing and camping industries – is working hard to

sell to their newest demographic: women.

The Remington rep concurred while he showed me the two guns that the company is marketing towards women.

"Yes, that is a pink gun. It is a marketing issue; we have this shotgun in both pink and white. It's basically the same 870 model with a pink stock and store," he explained.

For those who are interested in a less gender-specific new Remington, the rep recommended the new Versa Max. He described it as having a brand-new design for the gas port.

"It's in the chamber instead of the barrel and that's the big difference. There's also a big difference at the rear, there is a length of "poolkit" that comes with it and you can also adjust the cast on it. The mechanism on this gun is also revolutionary as it is basically flawless."

Over at the Savage Arms table, Mike Sarris (who the Nation has interviewed in previous years) was once again on hand to show off the company's new wares. Pointing to three different prod-



ucts, he showcased what were Savage Arms' best picks for the year.

"We have three big sellers this year. First, there's the Long-range Rifle, this is a long-range 26-inch barrel that has a McMillan stock. It's also accu-trigger and accu-stock. It is a bit heavier, but if you really want to go out and touch one, this is the one that you want.

"A well-rounded gun that I would recommend to the avid hunter whose budget is in the mid-range is the weather warrior. It has a stainless steel 22-24-inch barrel and features an accu-stock accu-trigger. Its technology has been proven over and over again.

"Our third gun is a 'value gun' for the hunter who is just starting out in the game and is uncertain if this is for him. This weapon is ideal for both the bush and the range. They are the last two here, they come with the scope and are ready to go!" said Sarris.

Of course, if you really want to go for accuracy, you could go for the monstrous sniper rifle that Tikka of Finland had on display. The TRG 22, calibre 28 that Jacques from Tikka had on his display counter was described as perfect for anyone looking to spend five times the normal price to annihilate their prey. This weapon is mainly used by tactical police or army. The precision was the advantage; you have to go very soft on the recoil.

It's much heavier than your average hunting rifle and everything is adjustable on it. Jacques said people do use them for hunting, but you are more likely to actually see it at a shooting range.

A few tables down, another Nation favourite, Rhéal Charlebois, the owner, designer and creator of Recall Designs game calls had his wares on display.

Charlebois had some new calls to show off. While the quality and sound of his incredible handmade fowl and game

calls have not changed, he has a whole new line of flashier looking calls made from acrylic.

"The finish on these is new; it is glassy and polished, instead of frosted," said Charlebois.

Looking at them laid out on the table in about every shade of the rainbow, it was like looking at candy. They will be much harder to lose in the bush! They also can handle the change from warm to cold without sounding different.

For those who want to go old school, Charlebois still makes many of them out of wood and there are also acrylic ones in camouflage if you want to remain incognito.

For more info:
www.recalldesigns.com/

While you can easily expect to see lots of camouflage gear for all sorts of weather at these kinds of shows, you seldom expect to see a special variety of camo for indoors... or more specifically



the bedroom. But, that's exactly what was being displayed by Wilderness Dreams.

Featuring bras, panties, teddy sets and bikinis, Wilderness Dreams had just about everything a hunter could want to make even his wet dreams come true at home with the missus.

"This line of camo lingerie is becoming very popular as it is being sold in more and more locations. It's mainly being sold at hunting/fishing stores as opposed to lingerie stores. The reaction it gets is quite incredible. People will be walking by and they stop to check this out," explained the Wilderness Dreams rep.

And, the line was pretty inexpensive for lingerie considering the fact that the panties go for about \$9.95 and then the products go up to about \$19.95 and you have lingerie as well as bathing suits. There's Mossy Oak, Naked North White Snow and Naked North Pink.

Available online (in regular and plus sizes) at www.wildernessdreams.com/ and also at B.C. Sports in Amos.

Hitting the main showroom, as per usual there were a phenomenal number of boats, recreational vehicles, trucks and a garden variety of ATVs on display.

Besides the vehicles, the year's show had a lot to offer when it came to where to go for your outdoor hunting, fishing or camping adventure. There were even a few groups up from the States, including a man dressed as a 10-foot-tall fisher/clown named Mackie to promote New Jersey, in particular the spectacularly stunning Cape May region.

"Why Jersey?" he asked. "Why not Jersey? Cape May is a wonderful, fabulous place; there's Cape May, Wildwood, Ocean City and Atlantic City, the entire area is just the place to come and visit."

The Jersey crew was in to promote their fishing and camping adventures available in the Jersey Cape region as well as many other fantastic tourist attractions.

For more info:
www.thejerseycap.com

Also on hand at the show was a group representing Maine and its tourism department.

While Maine is known for lobster and ocean fishing, unless you visit the state you don't realize that the hunters there are about as serious as those in Quebec's north and there are other tourism industries as well.

"We are showcasing the five different regions of Maine that we have highlighted in our booklets and we also have specific things within those regions that we're highlighting. For example, we have the Western Mountains of Maine or Aroostook County and then we have information on camping in Maine, both private and state campgrounds. There is also bicycling, hunting, fishing and our fishing regulations," explained Elaine Holcomb from Maine Tourism.

For more info: www.visitmaine.com/

Not only were the American groups a surprise, but as a sign of the times, there were numerous alternative-energy source retailers selling a wide variety of solar panels and related equipment.

INDIANS AND ALIENS

Currently in production:
"Indians and Aliens" (Tales from Kilometre 509) is a documentary TV series about unidentified aerial phenomena – also known as UFOs – that have been witnessed in and around Cree communities.

If you see our film crew in your community, come and share your UFO sighting stories with us.

You can also contact us on our UFO hotline 1-877-814-9011
– ask for the Alien at the Nation...
Or by email: km509@rezolutionpictures.com

www.rezolutionpictures.com



"Goal Zero and it is the best selling line of portable solar products in the world. The company was started in Utah and has humanitarian roots because we started filling in for disaster reliefs in the Congo and Japan to give people energy everywhere," said Raisa Stevens, a Goal Zero rep from Toronto.

On display were several solar-chargeable batteries as well as a series of accessories, such as flashlights, speakers and other smaller devices.

"We have everything from a 7-watt solar panel, which will charge a phone, an iPod or a GPS in about an hour, all the way up to larger batteries of 50w and 150w. We even have a 1250-watt solar generator," said Stevens.

But, what particularly caught my interest was the incredibly portable and durable 7-watt solar-panel charger that retailed for about \$115, taxes included. The device was capable of charging cell phones, iPods and other small, portable devices in under two hours.

"What we say about our stuff is that it is extremely durable. You can give it a good punch or a kick or throw it around and it is not going to break. We stand by the true meaning of portability which is all about taking it out into the wilderness to use it," said Stevens.

For more info:
www.goalzero.com/shop.html

And, like every other year, there were a wide variety of outfitters on hand to sell hunting and fishing excursions at their camps.

Among them were four smiley Crees who were all too happy to educate the public of what Awashish Outdoor Adventures and the Cree Nation of Mistissini have to offer in terms of outdoor adventures and accommodations in the Cree nation.



At the Awashish booth, George Awashish was sitting with Ginette Coonishish who said that the show was going very well because it had been so busy.

When we spoke to Awashish, he broke out in a sweat with excitement as he explained that he had just made a big sale.

"We are running quite a busy place, now that we have a year-round operation. We offer snowmobiling and cultural adventures in the winter where clients get to live with us and get to experience whatever kinds of activities that nature has to offer.

"What we have been doing is showing what our ancestors have taught us, such as trapping. Our clients aren't allowed to trap or hunt but they can accompany us and can experience this with us. A Cree can hunt and trap with us though," said Awashish.

Awashish said that some of the Cree entities have started hosting meetings at

his outfitting camp and that he was hoping to see more of this in the future.

Over at the Mistissini table, Kevin Neeposh said the event was going really well and that they too were quite busy.

"There are a lot of people here. At the same time, people already know who we are because of all of the publicity that we have done," said Neeposh.

Neeposh said Mistissini has been mentioned on various fishing programs on RDS and ESPN as they have invited some big names in fishing to visit the lodge and so the community's profile has been raised.

"It is off to a good start. Thursday used to be a slow day but this year it is pretty good," said Travis Shecapio.

And, if the show remained half as busy as it was during the first few hours on Thursday afternoon, it was most probably another stellar year for the Crees.

Expect to see more satisfied customers in the Cree nation during the summer of 2012.





INUIT DISTINCTIVENESS

Montreal exhibit highlights work by contemporary Inuit artists

Story and photos by Christine Rigby

On February 24, the McCord Museum hosted the opening of a very special exhibition: Inuit Modern, The Esther and Samuel Sarick Collection. Shown last year at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Inuit Modern is on loan to the Montreal museum until the end of September 2012. The exhibit, co-curated by AGO curator Gerald McMaster and Inuit art specialist Ingo Hessel, features over 150 works by more than 70 contemporary Inuit artists.

The original collection, compiled over the last 40 years, is considered to be one of the finest of its kind, and features almost 3000 works by some of the most prominent Inuit artists of the 20th century. It is a beautiful and powerful showing that explores modern Inuit art, and how it came to be.

The carefully selected pieces on display at the McCord represent only a small portion of the original, but nevertheless successfully highlight the undeniable presence of Inuit art in present-day Canadian culture.

As with most art, history has an important role to play in its development. This is the case for contemporary Inuit art as well and the McCord has done an excellent job of juxtaposing this history throughout the exhibit.

When visiting the show visitors will learn that the evolution of Inuit art can be traced back to the 18th century when explorers, fishermen and merchants began purchasing ivory sculptures of kayaks and animals to take home to Europe. Eventually the Europeans were commissioning works and the demand for the sculptures grew.

In the 1950s, after experiencing major social and cultural upheaval, the Canadian government encouraged the Inuit to use their artistic skills as way to stimulate economy as well as preserve cultural identity. But the stereotypical and commercial sculptures that you find in souvenir shops, reminiscent of these times, is not what visitors should expect to see at this exhibit.



Abraham Anghik 2001

Instead visitors will see a collection of modern works that garnered Inuit art national and international recognition in the 1970s. This was the time that Inuit art developed distinctiveness. No longer conforming to the demand for conventional Inuit sculpture, artists, such as Karoo Ashevak and Pauta Sail, began experimenting with subject matter and personal style.

Ashevak's works, on display at the McCord, are known for their spirituality and sense of humour. Some say he is responsible for making shamanism "cool" again. A personal favourite, his style holds particular importance because he influenced an entire generation of Kitikmeot artists.

The approach, developed in the 1970s, also reflects that fact that artists were beginning to scrutinize their societies and environments, both locally and globally, the results of which are traditionally inspired, unique, emotional and influential pieces of art.

Displayed vividly at the McCord in a calming darkened space, the works, by Ashevak and many others, are featured on pristine white pedestals. Strategically placed spotlights emphasize the brilliant detail of the sculptures and seem to bring each individual piece to life.

There are stone and whalebone sculptures, as well as drawings and prints on display. There are myriads of textures, shapes and histories to explore. It is a visual real treat and although it is a small exhibition in comparison to the Sarick collection as a whole, visitors will easily be captivated for several hours.

To complement the exhibit, the McCord is presenting a variety of films and lectures about Inuit artists and Inuit culture. The exhibition runs until September 3.

For more info: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca



Tattoo Lady, Pitseolak Ashoona 1983

Bringing justice home

Celebrating the opening of Wemindji's new Justice Centre

By Jesse Staniforth

For the crowd that gathered for the official opening of the Wemindji Justice Centre on Friday, February 17, there were moments of laughter to balance against the new building's serious purpose.

Following a speech by Geoffrey Kelley, Quebec Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Wemindji Chief Rodney Mark gave a speech while accompanied by his daughter Anna, a toddler who circled him at the microphone until he picked her up and held her – to the obvious delight of the audience – as he finished his address.

The huge crowd, which filled all available seats and spilled out into the lobby, was forced to wait for the delayed plane carrying Associate Chief Justice Danielle Côté, Superior Court of Quebec Judge Jocelyn Geoffroy and Coordinating Judge for the Court of Quebec Daniel Bédard.

When they finally arrived, Don Nicholls, Director of Justice and Correctional Services for the Grand Council of the Crees, quipped, "We've all heard of 'government time' and 'Indian time.' This morning, we've learned that 'judges' time' can also be a little off."

Later, in the day's final speech, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come joked (in Cree) that he slept very well the previous night at Wemindji's Maquatua Inn, but would have slept better with a woman beside him.

"I've been married for 35 years," he said to the laughter of the room, "and it is difficult to sleep alone."

At a more serious moment in Coon Come's speech, however, he underlined the importance of the active participation of Cree communities in the justice system so that they may shape it in the image of their cultures and traditions. This was a message that had been reiterated by all speakers, including Côté and Geoffroy, who advised that there could be no proper administration of justice in Cree territories until the justice system properly



Wemindji JC Ribbon Cutting with Chief Mark's daughter hiding

understood and reflected the needs and background of Cree communities.

"Justice is a basic right," said Geoffroy in his speech, "and the efforts of the Cree Nation to implement these new justice facilities in its territory are of great significance." He added that the first civil case involving Wemindji Cree people will be moved from Amos to the new Justice Centre to heard at the end of 2012.

"Justice, and the administration of justice, must reflect that we are different, and equal," said Côté. "One way of demonstrating our differences is through the intervention of justice committees. In the coming months, the participation of justice committees in the delivery of justice should be noticeable. Not only in the decision made by the judge, but also in the representation made by the crown lawyers, and the lawyers representing a Cree person."

Côté reiterated that the goal of coordinating between the provincial justice system and the Cree justice committees is to achieve a set of policies and procedures that are the same for all Cree populations.

"Justice in Cree communities should be in harmony with Cree cultures and values," she said. "I do not mean that presently justice is not in harmony with Cree cultures and values – I mean that it is not sufficiently visible even if always present."

When he addressed the room, Coon Come first gave an extended speech in Cree, and then spoke at length in English, both repeating some points and ad-libbing new ideas. In both of his speeches, Coon Come made sure to present the opening of the Justice Centre within the context of the demands of the 1975 James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

"Thirty-seven years ago," he said, "the leaders of the day contemplated that one day we'd have our own police force, that one day the Indian Act would not be applied to us. That we would find the mechanism and regimes in which we could incorporate and codify traditional customs, beliefs and values, and with that we could replace the Indian Act, because we felt the Indian Act was not a part of us."

Celebrating the successful inauguration of the Eeyou Istchee Police Force last April, the Grand Chief recognized that with Cree order there must come Cree law.

"And there was a time when our Elders and our leaders felt that, what was promised to them, they wanted to see it in their lifetime," he said. "They wanted to be able to walk into a building, to touch it, to see it. Part of that dream is now fulfilled. To be able to walk into this justice building, to allow a system that we have adopted, in which we hope to incorporate our own values, our own customs and our traditions, in developing the programs. God forbid that this be a place where our young people are taken away, but I know we're working on programs to help our young people and those who break the law, to allow them to be adapted back into society."

Coon Come cautioned that, in pursuing justice, "We have a lot to learn. We cannot just copy the system of how things are done by white people. We should include the skills and the knowl-

edge of Cree people. We should use the Cree way of thinking when we run the justice system. We will own this – and not just borrow it from the south."

Acknowledging the presence in the room of some of those who have been involved in the struggles for Cree self-government, Coon Come recognized Wemindji Elders John Mark and Fred Blackned, along with former Wemindji Chief Reggie Mark.

These were, he said, "the people from your community who had to go down to Montreal to be able to defend and fight for Aboriginal rights, questions dealing with title, and questions of extinguishment – protecting our way of life."

The Coon Come underlined the distance of travel this demanded of them, saying, "I hope we don't come to that day where we're fighting in court – Minister Kelley," he smiled and nodded at the minister, to some laughter from the courtroom. "But if that happened, if we could have a hearing in our own community, that would be historical."

Speaking afterward, Chief Rodney Mark said he appreciates the grand sig-

nificance of the events that Coon Come was discussing, but cautioned that the process of bringing Cree-centred justice to the Cree Nation is a long one. Mark was more concerned with organizing the Wemindji Justice Committee and implementing bylaw enforcement than with the arc of Cree history.

"That's something we need to look at in a 20-year timeframe," he said. "It's about working in collaboration with the Health Board, the Cree School Board. A lot of the programs that we're trying to implement right now are crime-prevention programmes, but they're not called that. You have to look at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation – how do we address all those things?"

Mark is optimistic about the possibilities, however.

"It's a small community, so we can really focus on these things," he says. "We'd rather take our time [organizing the justice committee] in order to have the right people, people who are committed, so the quality is going to be delivered."





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On behalf of the Council of the Cree Nation of Wemindji and Goldcorp Éléonore Project

This letter is to the citizens of Eeyou Estchee, as you are all aware Mining Development is taken place in various parts of our Traditional Lands. We need to be aggressive in ensuring that we retain these jobs. Whether you are for or against Mining Development, we must recognize the huge opportunity for our Communities in business development and the abundant employment and training opportunities for our people especially for the youth. Let's work together to maximize these opportunities.



Éléonore is an underground Mining Project; the construction phase is now underway. There will be about eight hundred (800) jobs during this two (2) year construction phase. Upon the operations phase of the Mine in 2015, it will create six hundred (600) permanent jobs for at least fifteen (15) years.

Permanent jobs in the Mine; Ore Extraction 400 positions, Diamond Drilling 40 to 60 positions; Heavy Machinery Mechanic 80 plus positions; Mineral Processing 56 plus positions; Operators (HEO/Trucks) 30 positions; Catering & Housekeeping 67 positions; Welding 10 plus positions; Security 8 to 12 positions. These positions are available through training, now is the time to act.

All these training programs are obtainable through Sabtuan Vocational Training Programs. If you should have any questions regarding these training programs, please contact your local Cree School Board Education Consultant.

And, should you have any inquires regarding these employment opportunities, please contact your local Cree Employment Officer or Goldcorp's Coordinator of Community Relations, Stella Lameboy-Gilpin at 819-978-0264 extension 222.

CREE NATION OF WEMINDJI
Chief Rodney Mark

Women taking action

Native women tackle issue confronting them on International Women's Day

By Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie

International Women's Day is an event that brings to light many important issues concerning First Nations women. This year's focus was on eliminating poverty in First Nations communities.

"For us, March 8 is every day," said Michèle Audette, president of the Quebec Native Women Inc. (QNW). "The QNW celebrates, works and denounces injustices seven days a week."

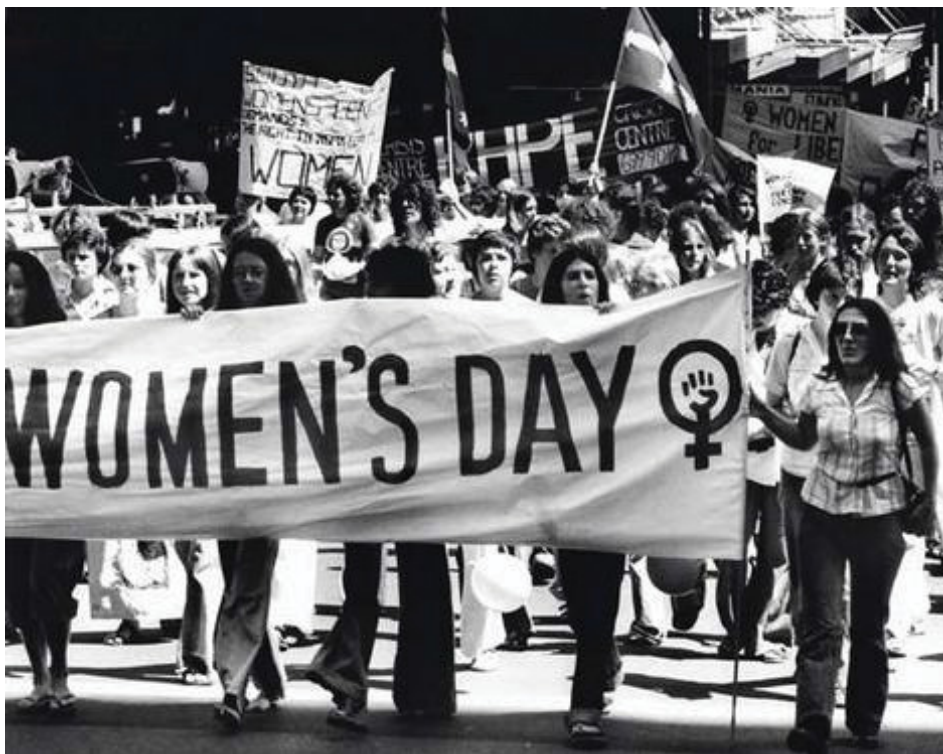
The QNW was founded in 1974, working to promote First Nations women's rights such as non-violence, justice, health, equality and to better their living environments. They promote self-government and empowerment in First Nations communities in Quebec and rural Aboriginal areas.

This year, the QNW is associating itself with Amnesty International to present a video clip about violence against Aboriginal women which will be available online. "We are proud to associate ourselves with the French Amnesty International," said Audette.

The QNW has recently been active denouncing the Conservative government's inaction regarding the rights of Aboriginal women and children.

After the recent meeting of the Crown and the First Nations, the QNW issued a press release in reaction to the fact that the question of citizenship and membership of Aboriginal women was not mentioned by the government. "I'm not sure if it was worthwhile to be disappointed. We're not surprised anymore by the Conservative government. For the question of women's rights, they were completely backwards," said Audette.

This speaks volumes about the Conservatives' priorities in helping Native communities. Before the meeting, the QNW had lobbied and talked to provincial Native leaders in order to have the issues raised, but the voices of



Native women were not represented during the Crown meeting.

"We met with deputies and ministers to educate, sensitize and make them understand that the government's debt-eliminating budget cuts are used for debt that we have not created," stated Audette. "With the highest rates of sexual, physical, spiritual violence and suicide, why should we have to deal with budgets cuts when we are already under-financed by the government?"

Finding funding for social programs for Native women is difficult for Aboriginal women and Cree women specifically because the territory is so vast. That is why the QNW help the Cree Women of Eenu Itschee Association (CWEIA) by aiding them to get support from Cree entities.

The CWEIA also hold fundraisers to finance their programs, such as merchandise bingo. "It's a good fundraiser

because it allows a lot of the women to get together. There's more of a social aspect but we use the money to implement programs," said Carmen Faries, vice-president of the CWEIA.

One of their most recent programs is the Resista-Ball exercise program, in collaboration with Lemon Cree. Though they have had snags in the road in terms of finding a secure place to store the equipment, the CWEIA is trying to focus on promoting the program. In Wemindji, they funded Laurie-Ann Georgekish to go to Chibougamau in order to get Lemon Cree-certified by Theresa Ducharme, CEO and founder of Lemon Cree.

"International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women and to respect and appreciate all that women have done in various areas like economic prosperity and family violence as well as those who are political leaders who voice concerns for women

throughout the country,” said CWEIA president Virginia Wabano.

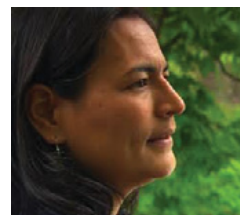
The CWEIA is constantly working to empower women. Those who wish to start a business can consult with their Regional Economic Development Officer. “She goes and works with ladies one-on-one to submit their business plans. That’s one service we offer for economic prosperity and to combat poverty so people can be self-employed to help themselves,” said Wabano.

With the collaboration of the Justice Department of the James Bay region, they will be building two women’s shelters within the region. The CWEIA is at the planning stages for programming and blueprints for the buildings.

“We have a lot of work ahead of us but it’s worth it to help women over-

“FOR US, MARCH 8 IS EVERY DAY.”

MICHÈLE AUDETTE



come the social issues that they deal with within their relationships and to empower them to stand up against violence. We want them to be able to come back to their communities as strong healthy women and to be able to share their experiences and become role models for those who are still struggling,” said Wabano.

For Women’s Day, the CWEIA and the QNW are working to acknowledge all women and their efforts. Fighting poverty, violence and health problems are constant issues that need to be dealt

with but International Women’s Day sheds some light on these matters.

“I have a dream that I’ve been cherishing for a long time: to develop an action plan to get Aboriginal women out of poverty and economic violence. We would work with women who dropped out of school because they got pregnant at a young age or because they could not afford school. We will work to reintegrate these women as well as acknowledge those who are leaders and women of change so that we can establish a mentoring program,” said Audette.

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Prior to your application we request that you consult your local Cree Employment Officer or Program Officer to ensure that all information required in your project is provided and complete.

For more information or to download an application form, please visit

Any general inquiries, contact your local Cree employment Officer or pay a visit to your local CHRD office.

Priority applications shall be received no later than March 26, 2012. Any application received after this deadline is subject to the conditional funding allocated.

Education as weapon of mass destruction

Truth and Reconciliation Commission delivers Interim Report

by Daniel David

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) says it's time for Canadians to face "some hard truths" about their history and residential schools. "It was not simply a dark chapter," says a report by the TRC, but "an integral part of the making of Canada".

Justice Murray Sinclair says an Interim Report released by the TRC on February 24 is "a snapshot of what we've done to date," required at the mid-point of its work. "We've been to 500 Aboriginal communities and listened to more than 3000 former students," said Sinclair. "We have not come close to collecting all the documents from government and the churches. There's a significant number of documents that still need to be gathered and analyzed."

Regardless, the "snapshot" that's developed shows the "Canadian government signed treaties it did not respect, took over land without making treaties, and unilaterally passed laws that controlled nearly every aspect of Aboriginal life."

This history, said the TRC, shaped Canadians' attitudes and Aboriginal-Canadian relations for the past 150 years or more.

The Interim Report was released with a historical summary of residential schools in Canada entitled "They Came for the Children: Canada, Aboriginal Peoples and Residential Schools". The TRC commissioners said a "significant degree of ignorance" is at the root of so much misunderstanding between Canadians and Aboriginal peoples.

"This isn't Aboriginal history – it's Canadian history," said TRC co-chair Marie Wilson.

"One of the greatest challenges we face as a commission is the degree of continuing ignorance by people like me, and others like me across this country, who went through school where none of this was taught to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. We knew nothing

about residential schools or what was going on in them."

Sinclair acknowledged the TRC's troubled birth that began with infighting amongst the first three co-chairs, accusations that the federal government was really running the show, followed by an avalanche of complaints from residential school survivors. All three co-chairs resigned. Sinclair, Wilson and Wilton Littlechild replaced them. The TRC's been playing catch-up with an almost impossible mandate ever since.

The Interim Report recommends, among other things, that framed copies of the National Apology on Residential Schools be posted in every high school in Canada, that churches and governments create a "cultural revival fund" to support projects by Aboriginal peoples, and that provincial and territorial education departments review history courses to improve the way students are taught about Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The TRC also recommends that governments and churches be guided from now on by the UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Residential schools operated in Canada for well over a century," said Sinclair. "It took seven generations to get where we are today. It may take us just as long to fix this."

Few topics show how great a divide exists between the worlds of Indigenous and settler populations than residential schools. On one side of that divide, there isn't a single Aboriginal family that hasn't felt, seen, lived and understood the purpose of residential schools. People grew up as or learned about stolen children, lost generations, fractured families and crippled cultures because it shaped their lives and futures. They also knew that residential schools



were but one facet of Canadian policy meant to dispossess and even destroy Indigenous nations.

On the other side is a wall of widespread denial and willful ignorance by governments, academics and a lot of ordinary people. The Canadian government and churches denied responsibility for this gross violation of human rights. Things were done with the best of intentions, they said. Mistakes were made, and were a product of attitudes of the times. The federal government and churches deflected blame until they could no longer evade the thousands of frail survivors pointing fingers in accusation.

"There's a great deal of misinformation about residential schools in the minds of the Canadian public," explained Sinclair. He said the TRC hoped its historical summary might encourage provincial education departments to begin "significant and constant education programs" to fill huge gaps in Canadian history about Aboriginal peoples.

Jackson Lafferty is the Minister of Education with the Northwest Territories and a former student at a residential school. He said his department has already started to develop a new history curriculum and plans to unveil it this fall. He urged his provincial counterparts to do the same as soon as possible.

The TRC's Interim Report and historical summary, "They Came for the Children", can be found at: www.trc.ca

CREE HOCKEY

News & Notes

Story and photos by Daniel Coyle



Sara Morrison

James Bay Beavers Pee Wee CC

The James Bay Beavers Pee Wee CC concluded their road trip to Quebec City with a run to the quarterfinals of the 37th edition of the International Pee Wee BSR tournament. The Beavers defeated a Swiss team and two teams from France before falling 3-0 to eventual champions Pro-Lac, from des Etchemins, Quebec. Grant Kakabat was the Beavers' leading scorer in the tourney, and seventh overall, picking up two goals and four assists in four games.

University of Ottawa Women's Hockey Playoffs

Wemindji product Sara Morrison's season ended February 26 after her Ottawa Gee Gees squad fell to the McGill Martlets, Canada's number-two ranked female university hockey team. The Gee Gees were a heavy underdog, but

shocked McGill 1-0 to win game one of the best-of-three series. McGill rebounded to win the following two games, however, hammering the Gee Gees 9-1 in the final.

Amos Forestiers Midget AAA

Alex Hester's game-winning tally in game four against the Jonquiere Elites propelled his Midget AAA Amos Forestiers into the quarterfinals. The first-round series was unusually scheduled, with the first three matches taking place in Jonquiere before moving back to Amos. Unfortunately, division rival Collège Esther-Blondin quickly ended the Forestiers' season in three straight games during the quarterfinal best-of-five series.

Hester, a 16-year-old left-winger from Waskaganish, is expected to get a long look from QMJHL teams next season – especially after scoring two goals and four assists during seven post-season games.

Off-ice violence ends Kahnawake's hockey season

An inexcusable attack on referees by members of the Kahnawake Midget A Mohawks led to the suspension of the entire team and has placed the seasons of other teams in the Kahnawake Minor Hockey Association at risk.

"Five or six Midget A players from Kahnawake went into the referees' room after the game and seriously and viciously attacked one of the referees and prevented the other referees from intervening," said Kahnawake Minor Hockey Association President Peter Jacobs in a statement. "The referee sustained cuts and bruises on his face and a



Alex Hester

black eye. Two more kids who no longer play hockey stood in front of the door as a lookout."

One of the players had apparently been assessed a game misconduct by the referee who was attacked. The incident has made it difficult to find referees to officiate upcoming games. Scheduled games of boys' and girls' teams at other levels in Kahnawake were as a result moved or cancelled.

"Our kids will feel the ripple for a long time to come," said Jacobs. This kind of behaviour gives Kahnawake a bad name and embarrasses us all. The referees that were attacked were some of the few referees who had no problem to ref in Kahnawake and unfortunately, we no longer have them."

Contrary to some reports, the schedule of the Kahnawake Condors of the Quebec Junior AAA Hockey League is not affected. The Condors will play the remainder of the regular season and playoffs without interruption.

Jonathan Cheechoo on fire in February

Jonathan Cheechoo of the AHL's Peoria Rivermen is making a strong case for a late-season call-up to the St. Louis Blues. Cheechoo has struggled at times this season, but turned it around in February with four goals and seven assists in eight games. Cheechoo is fourth in scoring on



Deverick Ottereyes of PEI Rocket

the Rivermen and leads in shots on goal. His recent play has given Peoria hope for a home-ice advantage in the playoffs.

St. Louis, the Rivermen's parent club, sits atop the NHL's Central Division and is second in the Western Conference. However, the Blues's offence is eleventh in the Conference. Could the Blues an-

mic attack be an opportunity for Cheechoo to return to the NHL before season's end?

Deverick Ottereyes' Val-d'Or homecoming

When the PEI Rocket of the QMJHL made their only visit this season to Val-

d'Or February 25, it was a reunion of sorts for rookie Deverick Ottereyes of nearby Waswanipi. Friends and family made the four-hour drive to see Ottereyes play, and the 17-year-old left-winger responded by setting up the game's first goal just 38 seconds in to the first period. The Rocket exchanged markers with the Foreurs before Val-d'Or pulled away with four unanswered third-period goals to win 7-3.

Ottereyes' rookie season has been a positive experience, both personally and in terms of his hockey development. "I definitely have adjusted well. Lately, I've hit bodies, (blocked a lot) of shots, used my teammates well," Ottereyes told reporters recently. "Overall, I think I need to shoot the puck more often, use my speed more often, do the details right."

The Rocket is a young team that is destined to miss the playoffs. However, Ottereyes has turned heads playing a two-way role in his 36 appearances, compiling a goal, four assists and 14 penalty minutes.



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Fear in the hallways

Programs attempt to tackle bullying in Cree schools

By Brandon Judd

It's an experience that can cause high blood pressure, and increase one's chances for heart attacks and strokes. The stress and anxiety leads to drug and alcohol use, among other unhealthy habits. And it can all start with something as simple as "that shirt's gay".

Elementary and high schools in the Cree School Board kicked their efforts to tackle student bullying into higher gear in February with a school-board-wide program designed to promote empathy instead of punish misbehaviour.

Representatives from each school attended a workshop in Montreal where they learned building blocks designed to help each create a program suited to their school and community. They then returned home to collaborate with local parents to implement these principles in the communities of Eeyou Istchee.

"We talk about the difference between tattling and telling, about self-confidence and how bullying affects this," said Catherine Eggimann, guidance counsellor for Badabin Eeyou School in Whapmagoostui. "But we've had to design it to keep kids interested and make sure they're understanding."

Badabin is just beginning to implement their program; weekly workshops are currently being given to Grade Five, and to Secondary One and Two.

"It's still in the process of being developed. The final version isn't out yet but we decided not to wait until this happens," Eggimann said. "We have something to work with, so we should do something as soon as possible."

Early on, Eggimann decided to deliver some workshops in the form of game

shows. One week, students split into teams and, with the help of a slideshow, attempted to sort out the myths about homosexuality from the facts.

Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School, in Waswanipi, has a longer-standing anti-bullying program. Administrators at the school confirmed that sexual orientation, whether real or perceived, is increasingly becoming a reason for bullying.

"Last year we had a student in the computer lab while a girl wrote on the computer something like 'so and so is

mentation of the program. His verve for its potential is obvious in his speech. "But there's a lot of research saying if we empower the silent majority, the students who witness it, the bully doesn't have power any more."

With this in mind, Martin follows a group discussion template. When a bullying complaint is lodged, they bring three groups into a room together: the bully, the target and witnesses to the event. These witnesses constitute the silent majority, peers of the bully who

"IT CAN BE DEVASTATING, PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THE IMPACT. USUALLY THE BULLY NEVER REMEMBERS. BUT THE VICTIM NEVER FORGETS."

gay and is a virgin'," said Randy Martin, the academic counsellor at Happyjack. "And she printed copies and started handing them out in the building. This boy was devastated. I had a talk with him and he ended up leaving school and not returning for five months."

It's an extreme example, Martin admitted, but a good one to show just how painful bullying can be for some kids. He said their program combats this maliciousness by putting emphasis on promoting empathy as opposed to doling out punishment.

"Before, we tried to deal with the bullying behaviour directly," said Martin, who has been aggressive in his imple-

most often admit their disapproval of bullying behaviour.

The offending student hears the perspective of the victim, and of the witnesses, in an effort to open their eyes to the consequences their actions have. Then, this student is assigned a pro-social consequence: writing an apology letter or reporting 10 acts of kindness during a day, for example.

"It's about giving back to the circle: when you bully, you take something away and this is about you putting something back," said the upbeat Martin, confident in the potential of the program. "What it teaches is empathy, sensitivity

to others and their feelings and respect for others.”

Bullying has increasingly been in the forefront of the public consciousness these past couple years. The importance of anti-bullying programs in school was further accentuated by the suicide of Majorie Raymond last November.

The Quebec government recently tabled a bill calling for a province-wide program to combat bullying in schools. The bill, which calls for an anti-bullying law and which was accompanied by the launch of the website irightthewrong.com, received criticism for its mechanics but was universally lauded for its intentions.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Institute for Health Research pledged \$2 million to a five-year study on the effects of bullying on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer groups (LGBTQ). It will assess the long-term health consequences of bullying in school, and the effectiveness of anti-bullying programs across the country. The study's lead researcher, Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, said assessing these programs is

a crucial step towards effective deterrents to bullying.

“For the most part [these programs] haven't been rigorously analyzed, and part of what we need to know is not just whether or not they work but why they work,” said the University of British Columbia professor of Nursing and Adolescent Medicine. “What is it about having people who are gay coming into classrooms to answer questions change attitudes? Why do gay-straight alliances in a school help? Do they reduce bullying or just help people feel they belong?”

Saewyc expressed both support and interest in the empathy-promoting program at Happyjack. She confirmed that punishment often isn't the best method of stopping this behaviour, but reiterated that it is hard to judge any anti-bullying program without careful analysis of its effectiveness. The most important thing, she said, is teamwork from kids, teachers, administrators and parents.

“It's not just a full team effort, it's a full society effort,” she said. “We have

other kinds of issues that people used to bully others about – racism or disabilities or other kinds of circumstances – so it really takes the whole society to say this isn't okay, and to change the environment in schools so everyone feels safe and everyone feels like they belong.”

Back at Willie J. Happyjack Memorial, Martin continues to work towards this type of cooperation. He has met with the adults of his community many times to discuss strategies and how the program is being implemented. He has designed one-off refresher courses for students, to make sure what they learned in his eight session program isn't forgotten.

While potential bullies must learn not to forget, the victim, Martin said, often wishes they could do just that.

“It can be devastating, people don't realize the impact,” he said, a sombre tone overtaking the hopefulness he exuded throughout the conversation. “Usually the bully never remembers. But the victim never forgets.”



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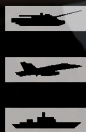
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Nation Health Matters

A new health column devoted to discussing what you want to know about

By Amy German

Welcome to Nation Health Matters. This is the first of a new monthly health column that will explore different health topics that are being covered in the media or suggested by the readers of the Nation or health professionals working in Eeyou Istchee.

If you have a health topic that you would like to see discussed in the Nation, please contact me at amy.german@gmail.com so that I can look into the issue.

What can weight-loss surgery do for Type 2 Diabetes and if so, why does it not happen more often?

Every November, the Nation does a special on diabetes in the Cree Nation and looks at the most recent statistics, which are always staggering.

This past year we reported that more than one-in-five Crees over the age of 20 has diabetes and some young Crees in their 20s are experiencing serious complications from the disease as a result of obesity.

Adopting a proper diet and exercise routine is the recommended treatment for obesity. If a patient loses enough weight they can put their diabetes into remission so that they are no longer experiencing symptoms. However, for some patients losing weight is an impossible task, particularly in cases where patients are morbidly obese. In general, being morbidly obese is defined as being at least 100 pounds over their ideal body weight or having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of greater than 40 kg/m².

To find out more about weight-loss surgery or bariatric surgery, the Nation turned to Nicolas Christou MD PhD, Professor of Surgery at McGill University and the Director of Bariatric Surgery at McGill University Health Centre.

According to Christou, for some patients who have gained so much weight that it is now causing them a variety of health complications, such as Type 2 Diabetes, weight loss through diet and exercise is very possible but for some the weight just keeps coming back.

In this case, bariatric surgery could be an option.

"It has been confirmed worldwide that bariatric surgery produces permanent weight loss. It improves most of the obesity associated conditions, especially Type 2 Diabetes, and it reduces the relative risk of death when you compare the patients who get operated on against those who remain morbidly obese," explains Christou.

There are four types of bariatric surgery that can be offered in Quebec: Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, Laparoscopic Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy, Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Band and the Gastric Reduction Duodenal Switch procedure.

Unless you are willing to go privately and pay out of own pocket these kinds of procedures are very hard to come by in Quebec. Despite the fact that they may be effective, there is little funding in the public system to get these procedures done and an incredibly long waiting list.

According to Christou, the delay to get one of these procedures done through the provincial healthcare system is on average 5.3 years. But this can increase to 10 years depending on which hospital you try to get the procedure done at.

This is why Christou decided to opt out of the provincial medicare system and is now offering these types of surgeries – except the Duodenal Switch procedure – at his private clinic.

But, buyer beware, the three procedures that Christou offers at his clinic range from \$17,000 to \$19,500 and then there are other related costs.

At that, Christou says when it comes to patients from the north "laparoscopic banding might not be the best procedure for them because it requires a lot of maintenance or a very strong support program with the physicians", and that may not be available everywhere.

And, like with any type of surgery there is a certain amount of risk involved in having these procedures – a matter that needs to be discussed at length by a patient and their doctor.

Taking the issue up with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, according to Dr. David Dannenbaum, this kind of surgery has not widely been prescribed to Crees.

At the same time, Dannenbaum questions whether these procedures should be seen as a "magic bullet" solution to solve the weight-loss problems of the obese. They can be risky and they do not address the entire issue when it comes to obesity.

"There are often many other issues behind a patient's eating habits that just banding their stomach may not solve the problem," says Dannenbaum.

But, for those who are interested in finding out more about these procedures, Dr. Christou's website is <http://weightlosssurgery.ca>



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Top left: Walter Spencer

Above: top row, from left to right—Philippe Lane, Linda Bréard, Rebecca Chisholm, Jeremy Cameron, Carole Tremblay, Michael Hager, Louis-Pierre Pichette, Violaine Lyrette, Judith Buteau, Marjorie Forsyth. Seated, from left to right—Walter Spencer, Shannon Scipio, Clara Pachano, Geneva Matthew, Nellie Lameboy, Margaret House.

Below: Linda Bréard, Geneva Matthew, and Carole Tremblay



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Amending the rules

Bill 14 will revamp Quebec's existing Mining Act

By Jesse Staniforth

Nearly everyone agrees that the Quebec government's Bill 14, *An Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development*, is an imperfect document. Tabled in May 2011 by Serge Simard, Minister for Natural Resources and Wildlife and Minister responsible for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region and Côte-Nord region, the bill is designed to amend the existing *Mining Act*.

It follows the unsuccessful Bill 79, also designed to amend the *Mining Act*, which was abandoned on the floor after Premier Jean Charest prorogued the National Assembly in February 2011. Both bills came in the wake of an April 2009 report by Quebec's Auditor General, which called into question Quebec's ability to properly rehabilitate its abandoned mines.

According to the Quebec government's Plan Nord materials, Bill 14 "introduces a major change of legislative direction [...] based on the three key principles of sustainable development, to ensure that mining projects are better integrated into the community and to optimize mineral potential in Quebec's regions." To meet these ends, the Plan Nord materials explain that Bill 14 will "reconcile a range of land uses," "stimulate exploration work on claims," and "guarantee the cost of rehabilitating mine sites."

Changes to the existing *Mining Act* are being demanded by many groups, not least of which includes those in the environmental sector, and Bill 14 responds in part to some of these demands, as well as to demands from other parties concerned about such issues as the expropriation of private property.

The changes that Bill 14 would make to the *Mining Act* are numerous and detailed, but some of the most significant changes are as follows:



- The bill separates ownership of mining rights from ownership of the soil involved. As a result, mining companies would no longer be able to expropriate private property in order to make explorations for possible mines. Instead, within 60 days of a company staking an internet-based claim, property owners would be informed and would have to give the work a go-ahead, otherwise the companies would be barred from exploring. Expropriation of private property for purposes of extraction would still be allowed.

- Private owners who have to sell or move their houses in order for a mining project to occur will have access to legal aid worth up to 10% of the value of their houses.

- Companies are ordered to interpret the *Mining Act* consistently with the obligation to consult Aboriginal communities. Under certain circumstances, the minister may be required to consult personally with the Aboriginal communities in question.

- Non-First Nations and Inuit municipalities will be given 12 months to designate new "urbanization

perimeters" and "areas dedicated to vacationing", which will be made off-limits to staking, exploration or mining operations. In order to work in these areas, a claims-holder would need permission from the municipality.

- Claims-holders will be required to hold public-consultation hearings in the region concerned before applying for a mining lease.

- At the present time, metal and asbestos mines that produce more than 7,000 tonnes of material per day (and all uranium mines) are required to provide an environmental impact assessment and public hearings before the Bureau d'audiences publiques en environnement (BAPE). Bill 14 lowers the output threshold triggering environmental impact assessment and BAPE hearings for metal and asbestos mines to 3,000 tonnes.

- Mine leases will only be granted to those companies that provide a rehabilitation and restoration plan. At the moment, companies are responsible for providing a financial guarantee of 70% of the costs expected to be required for restoring the mine in question; under Bill 14, they will be responsible for 100% of

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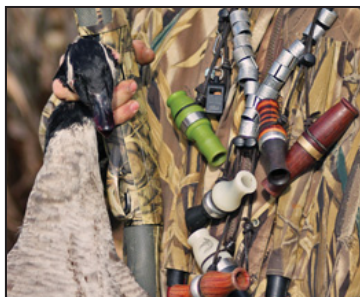
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the expected costs, and will have three years to set these funds aside. In some cases, the entire guarantee will have to be provided before work begins; in others, companies will have to pay a first instalment of 50% within three months of getting a mining plan approved, and will have to pay the final two 25% instalments of within three years of the plan's approval.

These changes may seem like a great victory to environmentalists, but representatives of the Nature Québec and of the Québec Meilleure Mine (QMM) coalition (which unites citizens, unions and environmental organizations) do not agree. While both, technically speaking, support the bill, they do so with great reluctance.

"It's true we say we want to see this bill passed," says Ugo Lapointe of QMM. "But the reality is more complex. What we recently came out in favour of was that, if there are going to be elections, then we thought the bill should be approved before the elections. With elections coming up, that would cause another delay of six months to a year before an improvement to the *Mining Act* was approved. It's already been two and a half years since the first Bill [79] was proposed."

Lapointe and his organization are not satisfied with the changes offered by Bill 14, but he is willing to settle for any improvement at all to the *Mining Act* as it exists in the present.

"The same legislation tells all companies – gas, petroleum, or mining – how to access the land and the resources," says Lapointe. "[Bill 79] helped us to make Quebec realize that this *Mining Act* is ridiculous when it comes to citizens' rights and the rights to the land. Bill 14 is imperfect in many ways, but if there's going to be elections, the *Mining Act* needs to be improved as soon as possible."

Lapointe's colleague Christian Simard, of Nature Québec, is a partner in the Meilleure Mine Coalition. He is even more emphatic in his criticism of the bill.

"We are not supporting Bill 14," Simard says. "Both bills [79 and 14] were, and are still, totally insufficient to

address the problems in the mining sector. But in the present context, we prefer weak reform to no reform at all. We're afraid of going into an election with the old and obsolete *Mining Act*, with principles from two centuries ago. But it is very dangerous to manage old mines with the new law. The reality of this bill is terrible."

The greatest problems with the *Mining Act*, both say, are not addressed in Bill 14.

"We are based in the free mining tradition," says Lapointe, referring to the custom of allowing companies free access to land in which minerals are publicly owned, the right to get the title to possess them by staking a claim, and the right to develop and mine the minerals

"...IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT, WE PREFER WEAK REFORM TO NO REFORM AT ALL. WE'RE AFRAID OF GOING INTO AN ELECTION WITH THE OLD AND OBSOLETE MINING ACT, WITH PRINCIPLES FROM TWO CENTURIES AGO. BUT IT IS VERY DANGEROUS TO MANAGE OLD MINES WITH THE NEW LAW. THE REALITY OF THIS BILL IS TERRIBLE."

discovered there. This tradition, he says, gives mining a priority over all other possible uses of land even when the other uses of the land have been determined to be more valuable.

Simard agrees. "If you want to create a national park, you still have to avoid mining claims: there's a priority on exploration and the exploitation of minerals instead of the conservation of nature. When it's outside of a protected area, this happens without any discussion, and it leaves the parks like Swiss cheese with holes permitted for exploration. This is not healthy. We're deeply concerned that Bill 14 does not address the free mining principle directly."

"Even on JBNQA lands," says Lapointe, "the current legislative system doesn't have the tools to keep this industry under control. There are hundreds of exploration projects being opened every year, particularly in the Cree and Inuit territories. There are between 50 and 100 exploration projects in the Eeyou

Istchee alone every year – that's a conservative estimate. They can go from small \$10,000 explorations to \$20-million-a-year projects. The Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Regional Authority agrees that we need to reconsider how we manage the exploration phase."

The QMM coalition advocates for dividing exploration work into three categories, low-, medium- and high-impact work, and setting different obligations and permits for each category of work. For medium- and high-impact explorations, the QMM wants to see companies forced to file project proposals with the government and communities concerned, and to get permission from First Nations leaders to begin their work.

Ideally, says Lapointe, Quebec should have a public registry of current exploration work being done on the land.

"So if a company wants to drill, or trench, or build a bush road," Lapointe says, "they'd need to file their intention at least 30 days in advance. It doesn't have to be sophisticated or complicated: just something saying 'this is where I want to go, this is what I want to do, during these dates,' so then at least the government and communities would have information in advance. Right now, the government doesn't have information like that. How can they do inspections of these projects if they don't even know where they are? It's a simple demand, and a simple system."

However, the problem of government inspections is partly irrelevant, says Lapointe, because of the gross underfunding of the agencies that are supposed to maintain the environmental safety of mines.

Lapointe says sadly, “The recent numbers say, for Abitibi-Témiscamingue, that the Minister of the Environment has, at most, four permanent people monitoring hundreds of exploration sites, 20 active mines, and dozens of abandoned mines.”

The legacy of these abandoned mines, or “orphan mines”, left behind by companies that went bankrupt or disappeared, is one of the biggest issues in Quebec mining. At present, the cost to the Quebec government and taxpayers of rehabilitating abandoned mines has been estimated at \$1.25-billion. This enrages Simard.

“We know already that we’ll inherit new abandoned sites,” he says, “because we know certain companies are in the processes of bankruptcy and closure. It’s a problem to go forward with the Plan Nord without cleaning up the past.”

Industry leaders want to shirk responsibility for paying for cleaning up abandoned mines because they say they should pay for work done by their companies – a convenient excuse when their companies go bankrupt, absolving them of their duty to pay for cleanup.

“In the reality of this industry, very often there’s bankruptcy,” says Simard. “The leaders and specialists open new companies all the time, but it’s the



“The Liberal government totally refused our proposal [of a sovereign fund],” he says, “but it was taken up by the opposition. They said they will do it, but I hope it will be in their electoral platform. Sometimes the opposition says one thing and does another thing later on when the election comes.”

Simard adds, “These are non-renewable resources. You’re stealing that from the next generations. If you exploit a generation for all available resources, you have to leave something behind to

Témiscamingue, where Sherbrooke-based Matamec Explorations Inc. is at an advanced state of exploration for a mine on traditional non-treaty Algonquin territory.

Reached at her office, Paul explains that she flatly opposes Bill 14.

“There’s not enough detail on First Nations in the bill,” she says. “It has one line and it’s not representative enough for First Nations. What I’d like to see that we’re consulted at the exploration stage and not at the development stage.”

Paul says Matamec felt that because they were not a government organization, they had no need to confer with First Nations leaders about carrying out explorations or mining on traditional First Nations lands.

“It took a while for them to realize that. With the act, the duty to consult and accommodate – they kind of don’t understand that aspect of it when it comes to First Nations.”

She agrees that the *Mining Act* is in desperate need of change, and admits that Bill 14 offers some improvements.

“But as a First Nation representative, no,” she says. “There’s nothing meaningful in there for First Nations. It’s too vague.”

At press time, Minister Simard, who tabled Bill 14, had not responded to the *Nation’s* request for an interview.

“WE KNOW ALREADY THAT WE’LL INHERIT NEW ABANDONED SITES BECAUSE WE KNOW CERTAIN COMPANIES ARE IN THE PROCESSES OF BANKRUPTCY AND CLOSURE. IT’S A PROBLEM TO GO FORWARD WITH THE PLAN NORD WITHOUT CLEANING UP THE PAST.”

same people and circumstances in different companies. We need to make an important signal to the industry that it has to be responsible for the mistakes of the past.”

Simard would like to see a tax of 0.5% to 1% levied on the sale of land for the purpose of mining, and the tax gains used to create a sovereign fund (as exists in Norway) to pay for the rehabilitation of abandoned mines.

create prosperity for the next generation. This is a principle of ecological economy.”

For some in the present day, however, Bill 14 remains completely unacceptable. In August 2011, Chief Madeline Paul of the Eagle Village First Nation sent a letter jointly with Chief Harry St. Denis of the World Lake First Nation calling on Premier Charest to “Stop injustices towards First Nations before conflicts arise.” Both Nations are located close to

From the GCCEI/CRA

We take issue with certain inaccurate statements made in the article in the January 27, 2012 issue of *The Nation* entitled "CREECO board nixes new structure – for now". If not corrected, they could cause unfounded concern among the Cree people of Eeyou Istchee regarding the establishment of the Cree Development Corporation (CDC). These concerns, including those about local control and taxation, must be clarified.

This is the second attempt to pool the funds of the Board of Compensation and James Bay Eeyou Companeé into a stronger economic development fund to be managed by the CDC. The first attempt was proposed to take advantage of the development opportunities made possible by the Paix des Braves. Had the CDC been in operation to support Cree participation in the rapid development of Eeyou Istchee over the last ten years, wouldn't there have been more job and business opportunities created for the Cree? But the reorganization did not happen. In the end, the funds of the Board of Compensation and Eeyou were not made available to support Cree participation in the new development opportunities.

1. CREE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – WHY NOW?

Cree people may be asking, why establish the CDC now? What is the urgency? The urgency is that time is running out. The Plan Nord has been launched. The governance of Eeyou Istchee is being revised under the Framework Agreement we signed in May 2010. New development projects are being announced in Eeyou Istchee and so we now need a development vehicle to be able to participate in these initiatives.

At this time, the main challenge facing the Cree Nation is to create opportunities and jobs for our young people and for those who are out of work. We must meet this challenge in the context

of the Plan Nord and the increasing number of development projects in the mining, forestry and energy sectors. The only way we can do so is if we have a Cree entity to invest in development that has enough capital to help Cree companies to take a strong position in the new development opportunities. And the only way that the needed capital can be provided is if we "pool" the capital from the various entities where it now sits.

This is a critical time in the history of the Cree. We are putting in place a new governance regime in Eeyou Istchee. We are working very hard to make the Plan Nord benefit the Cree. But we Cree must choose. We can either be players in the Plan Nord and take the benefits, or we can sit on the sidelines. To be players, we need a Cree development entity that has a global vision for development and that has enough capital to make it happen. That is the role intended for the CDC.

2. THE NEED TO RATIONALIZE CREE ECONOMIC ENTITIES

At various Annual General Assemblies and Special General Assemblies, there have been calls from the Cree to rationalize the economic development efforts of the Cree Nation and to pool our financial resources.

The Board of Compensation has made important contributions in the past to the development of Cree communities and Cree rights. However, many things have changed since the Board of Compensation was created in the 1970s, and the needs of the Cree have evolved. The Board was originally intended to serve as a guardian of Cree Heritage Funds and to provide a "war chest" to ensure that Governments met their obligations. But the Board of Compensation and James Bay Eeyou model has had its day.

The Board of Compensation is no longer required to pay for the implementation of Cree rights. The New

Relationship Agreements we now have with Canada (NRA) and with Quebec (PdB) are now providing the Cree Nation with resources to address many Cree needs in various fields, as originally intended through the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Wyapschinigun Fund has been created to act as the new backstop and Heritage Fund for future generations. This Fund will grow into the largest Cree capital pool over time, in the billions of dollars over the life of the Paix des Braves. Further, the Wyapschinigun Fund has the same tax exempt status as the Board of Compensation.

The James Bay Eeyou Companeé was originally set up to carry out remedial works and invest in community development. However, Nisakamoon Corporation is now better suited to carry out remedial works. In this regard, what has been proposed is to transfer the Mitigating Works Fund in the amount of about \$39 million to Niskamoon Corporation. The goal is to avoid duplication and to ensure that Cree entities are rationalized and administrative costs minimized to increase service levels to our local people.

Furthermore, the plan calls for transferring the Community Fund totaling some \$70 million now under Eeyou to the communities. They will then have the capacity to manage these funds in their own best interests, but with certain conditions to ensure compliance with the original intent for the use of funds agreed to with Hydro Quebec in the La Grande 1986 Agreement.

For some time, concern has been growing that the Board of Compensation provides few tangible benefits to the Cree communities since it put a moratorium for community funding in place when the Paix des Braves was signed. Yet its administrative costs, including those for professional money management, are high. Pooling the Board's funds with those at Eeyou would reduce costs and free up capital to invest



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The main responsibility of the incumbent's staff/functional role is to contribute to the improvement of the health and well-being of individuals, families and different populations of the communities, and is within the mission, goals and prescribed programs of Akusen ananakeechedakanooch (the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay). This responsibility supports the principles of miyupimaatisiun, community-centeredness, interdisciplinary approach, and program design for seamless and integrated circles of care, based on (Awash, Ushiniichisuu and Chishaayiyuu) population age groups. The holder of this position ensures the quality of services provided by nurses.

- Masters degree in Nursing and 4 years of appropriate experience in health and nursing program development and/or administration.
- Member of OIIQ
- Strong knowledge of the MHSSQ network, regulations and programs for the nursing practice in a CMC (formerly CLSC) and Hospital health services;
- Strong knowledge of nursing related theory, practice, current issues and trends, and program planning and supervision, including the development of policies and program manuals and quality assurance systems;
- Strong knowledge of the strategic management of: access and continuity of services, professional and organizational (matrix) interdependence, information management, and evaluation;
- Knowledge of Cree culture and language is an asset;
- Fluent in English and French;
- Fluency in Cree is an asset;
- Willing to travel.

Please send your resume before **March 23, 2012**, to **Mrs. Dominique Chicoine, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, P.O. box 250, Chisasibi (Quebec) J0M 1E0**. Email: jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca | Fax: 819-855-2680

We thank everyone who applies, but only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.



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 Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

in creating more job and business opportunities for the Cree.

3. CONCERNS

The article raises a number of concerns. The first is about the relation between the creation of the CDC and control over Cree development. In fact, the CDC will be a tool

to increase Cree control over our economic and community development, not decrease it. It will enable us to take charge of our development. This is, in fact, the core mission of the CDC. The Paix des Braves states that the CDC will be dedicated to the economic and community development of the Cree, and act as a modern development organization with the mandate of supporting the long-term development of each Cree community.

Cree control over the CDC is ensured by the fact that the Cree Regional Authority will own all the shares of the CDC. Québec will not own any shares. The CDC will be accountable to the Cree communities through the Council/Board.

As for tax, one should note that CreeCo and its companies Air Creebec, the Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd., Valpiro and Servinor are already taxable. In fact, CreeCo paid \$3.7 million in taxes in 2010 and \$3.6 million in 2011. In any event, tax matters, while important, cannot be the main factor in the Cree economic development strategy. The first objective should be to create jobs and opportunities for the Cree, not to try to avoid taxes by not doing any development.

Moreover, the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) is a non-taxable entity. So any dividends paid by the CDC to the CRA will be non-taxable in the hands of the CRA. The Wyapschinigun Fund is also tax exempt, like the Board of Compensation. The tax protection of the Heritage Funds will remain the same as it is today.

Concern has also been expressed that the CDC may compete with local Cree businesses. That will not happen. The CDC will not be an operating company. It will not be engaged in construction, transport or other activities on the ground. The CDC will complement local Cree initiatives, not compete with them. It will be able to invest in local Cree companies and businesses as well as regional and national ones.

There is no basis for the concern that the creation of the CDC could undermine Cree treaty rights. Nothing in the creation of the CDC will affect Cree treaty rights under the JBNQA. In fact, it will empower the Cree to take full advantage of their treaty rights, by strengthening and consolidating their financial resources so that they can take part in the economic life of Eeyou Istchee.

The assertion that none of the Board of Compensation members agree with the CDC plan is not correct. As a member of the Board myself, I have spoken with Board members who have expressed their support for the plan to create the CDC and rationalize the Cree economic entities.

4. CDC IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

That is why the GCCEI/CRA Council/Board, by its Resolution 2011-07 adopted one year ago, on February 3, 2011, approved the establishment of the CDC through a long-term capitalization plan and the integration of various Cree economic activities. The resolution called for the phased dissolution of the Board of Compensation and the transfer of CreeCo to the CDC. It instructed the Grand Chief to take all necessary actions for the purpose of developing and implementing these initiatives aimed at the integration of certain Cree economic entities and the rapid establishment of the CDC.

In accordance with these instructions, the Grand Chief gave instruc-

tions to prepare an implementation plan for the creation of the CDC and the integration of certain Cree economic entities. He also established a joint steering committee with the management of the Board of Compensation to review the proposed implementation plan.

The implementation plan proposes a process that would proceed in phases. This phased approach will allow different options and strategies to be fully evaluated as implementation proceeds. No option has been closed. As for the Board of Compensation itself, one option would be to integrate it into the new Cree Nation Government to be created. Another possibility would be to retain the Board as an investment entity. In the first phase, the ownership of CreeCo's shares would be transferred from the Board to the CDC. Its staff would be integrated into the CDC.

More recently, Council/Board has adopted a resolution mandating the Grand Chief to continue to explore and develop concrete measures, alternatives and proposals for the implementation of the CDC. The resolution also mandates the Grand Chief to continue to work with the concerned entities to develop a step-by-step approach for the rationalization of the entities. The Grand Chief has given directives to move forward with this mandate.

At this critical time for the Cree, we must all work together for the common good. This is not about what is good for this or that specific entity or its management. It is a time to rise above, to ask what is best for the Cree Nation as a whole. We are confident that all concerned will work together to meet this goal.

Bill Namagoose
Executive Director



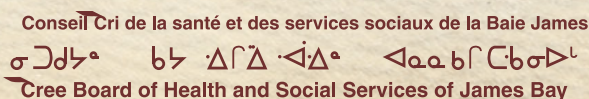
The Cree culture abounds with hundreds of tales and legends which have been passed on for over 5,000 years. While mastering the art of telling a great story, we have learned that to make a story great, you need memorable characters. Your life story has been amazing so far. Now, it's time to write the next brilliant chapter. Make a move to a place where you will discover a vibrant culture, develop your full professional potential and live an incredible adventure. Write the next chapter of your life and build an exceptional career with us.

With a primary focus on identifying and meeting the mental health needs of our communities, this role will contribute to the development of policies and tools for the Mental Health Program, and will also play a key role in program activity planning, coordination, support and control. Operating in line with the mission, philosophy and objectives of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and Miyupimaatisiun, the incumbent will contribute to the management of activities carried out by staff and take part in the identification, planning and development of new programs and service initiatives.

- Master's degree in Psychology, Social Work or a related area;
- At least three years of experience in mental health program development and/or supervision, or administration;
- Knowledge of the MHSSQ regulations for CLSC and Hospital Health Services;
- Able to effectively manage the planning and development of new services and programs;
- Capable of supervising the quality assurance of existing services and programs;
- Familiar with the Cree culture;
- Conversant with the issues that affect First Nation mental health services;
- Excellent communication skills with fluency in English and in at least one of the following: Cree or French;
- Computer literate;
- Flexible and willing to travel extensively;
- Familiarity with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Section 14, would be an asset.

Please send your resume before **March 23, 2012**, to **Mrs Anne-Marie Leblanc, Coordinator of Staffing, Human Resources, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, P.O. Box 250, Chisasibi (Quebec) J0M 1E0** by email to **jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**, by fax : **819-855-2680** or by mail.

We thank everyone who applies, but only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.



Laugh at Pierre Poutine, but the joke's on us

By Lyle Stewart

The only game in Ottawa right now is a variation on the popular children's book series, *Where's Waldo?* This week, it's been updated for the nation's chattering classes as *Where, Who and WTF is Pierre Poutine?*

There's no better symbol than this pusillanimous pseudonym for Canada's graceless slide into a corrupt and secretive pseudo-democracy under Stephen Harper's Conservatives. Whatever Monsieur Poutine's actual identity, he was likely little more than a small cog in a huge, intricately organized election fraud by the Conservative Party last spring. But Pierre Poutine as a metaphor is important nonetheless. The frat-house spirit of this dimwitted, adolescent effort to hide one's cell-phone tracks perfectly illustrates the tasteless, soul-diminishing governing style of our now all-powerful federal overlords.

Pierre, as we all know, claimed a home address on the mythical "Separatist Street" of Joliette, Quebec. In the days leading up to last May's federal election, however, Poutine made a lot of calls on his not-so-smart phone from that *independantiste* hotbed of Guelph, Ontario. As happened in at least three dozen ridings across the country, the calls were a cynical and very illegal attempt to persuade identified Liberal and NDP supporters to show up at far-away or non-existent polling stations in a fruitless effort to cast their ballots.

The intent was obvious: to suppress the votes of competing parties in a number of tight races during an election campaign in which a handful of ridings meant the difference between an omnipotent majority government for the Tories or a minority regime that survived through compromise and negotiation.

The Conservatives now have an 11-seat majority. Many of their new MPs won their seats by a handful of votes. The kind of operation is not undertaken

for fun, but because it can be devastatingly effective in close races.

One only has to look at the political model that the Harper Conservatives tries so hard to emulate, the US Republican Party. We recognize several tactics from the Republican playbook, including an insistence on wedge issues like the gun registry, a maniacal insistence on secrecy and state power, a harsh tough-on-crime agenda, the association of political opponents with criminals or terrorists, and now, well-organized and persistent efforts to discourage or prevent identified supporters of competing parties from casting ballots.

Sure, the slapstick nature of the Poutine angle to this story is humorous, though it may properly belong to a forehead-slapping category of dark humour. It's certainly an unintended invitation to ridicule the dimwitted strain of Conservative bigotry that conceived the instantly classic character (it took about a nano-second before the name was claimed on Twitter).

After the laughs fade, the one-liners dry up and the tears of mirth are wiped away, however, there is a sobering moment when we realize that, in the end, the joke is on the rest of us.

By the time this issue is published, this fast-moving story will no doubt have evolved into something even more incredible

We may have been disgusted but hardly surprised when Public Safety Minister Vic Toews mused a month or so ago that information obtained from torture is acceptable in certain cases, though he declined, disturbingly, to specify which ones.

And, frankly, many readers likely couldn't help agreeing a bit with Tory Senator Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu's quite literal suggestion that certain convicted criminals be supplied a length of rope as a federal budget-cutting measure.

Then Vic Toews upped the ante by saying that any Canadian who objected to their government conducting unfet-

tered secret surveillance of all our online activities at any time was an ally of child pornographers. This marked a new low as political gaffes go.

Incredibly, Vic Toews' crass and quite intentional equation of Canadian internet users who value their privacy – most of us, I would expect – with pedophiles didn't last long in the record books. Only days later we found out that the 2011 federal election may have been literally stolen by the Conservatives in what is proving to be the biggest electoral fraud in our country's history. But who incarnates this history-changing revelation? An as-yet anonymous Conservative schmuck who chooses Pierre Poutine as his cover identity.

This is bigger than Watergate, people. Remember Richard Nixon? I guess most readers born later than 1965 might not. If you do, it's probably because you learned about the Watergate crisis from the classic Robert Redford-Dustin Hoffman film, *All the President's Men*. The point is that Nixon was forced to resign as President of the United States over crimes that pale in comparison to what we are now uncovering in Canada.

But Watergate had, at least, a certain dignity. For instance, the episode introduced a sometimes exotic, often mysterious and always serious list of terms and phrases to the political culture, starting with the hotel where the scandal began. The Committee to Re-elect the President (or "CREEP"); the classic journalistic challenge, "What did the president know and when did he know it?"; the compelling development that came to be known as the "Saturday Night Massacre"; the ultimately riveting and political fatal judgment that there was "A cancer on the presidency"; and, of course, the all-time classic pseudonym for an anonymous source, "Deep Throat."

But for us dipshit Canucks? What name will come to symbolize the greatest political crime in our history?

Pierre Poutine.



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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

On a dark and dangerous road

by Xavier Kataquapit

I sure am a lucky guy. Most of the time I take my life and all that I enjoy for granted but every once in a while I pause to think of so much I have to be grateful for. Stopping to remember to feel gratitude has helped keep me grounded and positive.

The other day I came across a car off the road in the middle of a blizzard. Since I have a large four-wheel-drive truck it seemed right to stop and see if I could help out. What I came across was a teenager who had driven off the road in his first-ever winter accident. It reminded me of my own experiences in driving on the icy roads back north up the James Bay coast.

This kid had managed to plow his new little car into a farm field but was lucky enough to miss a nearby telephone pole or things would have been very different. There was very little damage to his car although even a small amount of denting and scratching on the new plastic cars can still be expensive.

Luckily, I had a tow-rope with me in the truck so I hooked up to his car and put my old truck into bull-low four-wheel-drive. Well, that little car slipped out of the snow-filled field and in a few minutes both driver and car were back on the road. The car was a little worse for wear and the driver very enthusiastic about his thanking me. He was however very worried about the reaction from his parents when he returned home.

After helping this fellow out I drove on into the storm to make my way home. As I drove I thought about all those early days when I first started driving the family trucks, tractors, four wheelers and, of course, snow machines. I recalled so many accidents as I careened around Attawapiskat at break-neck speeds with friends packed in vehicles or hanging off them. I remembered what it was like back then to think I was invincible.

I thought back about my teen life before I sobered up and just how lost and out of control I was. Every day was a struggle for me. I was depressed and full of anxiety most of the time and once I started really drinking I headed down a very slippery slope where it seemed impossible to get my life back. Booze and drugs were part of life in my small remote First Nation and I grew up with the tragedy that this life brings all around me. Even though I often promised myself I would

never drink or do drugs somehow I just ended up in the same boat as most others in the community.

When I was drinking and driving vehicles or snow machines, I was a danger to myself but more importantly to others in the community. The problem was that back in those days just about everybody thought this was normal. After a bender and joy rides, we would wake up the next day and have a good laugh at the scene from the night before or at least what we could remember of it.

Sadly, every once in a while someone died as a result of being out on the land in a vehicle while intoxicated. Sometimes when things go wrong at minus 40 below zero they go very, very wrong. I recall waking up in a jail cell one morning after a night out on the winter road on a snow machine. I had been part of a group returning from Moosonee with some booze and we were drinking on the ride back to Attawapiskat.

I don't remember much from that ride except that at one point I was racing as fast as I could on my machine in the dark and freezing cold when suddenly I rear-ended the sled in front of me and actually flew over that snowmobile and landed far ahead in soft snow. Lucky for me I was cushioned by the snow, thick layers of clothes on and managed to land in a way that I was not badly hurt. I was not wearing a helmet so if I had hit my head on anything at all at those speeds I would have been killed.

I woke up in a jail cell back in town the next morning. I could not remember much but I felt so depressed at my state and I was deeply embarrassed. These were dark days indeed. Then out of the blue I met my friend Mike who was sober and I was introduced to a life without alcohol or drugs. My life had been in a downward spin and I had just about lost all hope when somehow our paths crossed and I decided my life was worth living. There was a lot to deal with and with the support of my cousin Ron and some good friends from Alcoholics Anonymous I learned about my disease of alcoholism. To this day I am still a student and in recovery.... I always will be.

One day long ago someone stopped for me on a dark and dangerous road, I am reminded it is always good to pass that favour on.



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CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes going out to our baby girl JOY GLENNA-JANE BLACKSMITH as she will be turning 3 on the 6th of March. Wow! How time flies! We love you so very very much Joy!! xoxo Daddy, Mommy, Sky and Jayden Blacksmith

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to two beautiful and special girls: Wabiquin Bearskin on Feb. 5th and Alexa Masty on Feb. 11th. (chiswhymidnahnwow misdee) I would also like to wish a happy belated birthday to my mom, Stella Masty, her birthday was on Feb. 4th. I love you and hope you'll have many more birthdays. Thanks for everything Mom. No words can express how much I appreciate all that you've done for my family. With lots of love, from Priscilla and family (Whapmagoostui)

OBITUARIES

Claude Marcil passed away on February 25th, 2012 at the Chibougamau Hospital at the age of 64 & 11 months. He was dearly loved and is survived by his children Line and Suzie, and his grandchildren Audrey, Vincent and Sebastian. Donations may be made to the Chibougamau Hospital Foundation on behalf of Claude Marcil in his memory. Thank you.

PERSONAL MESSAGES

My name is Katrina Orr and I am looking for a house or attached home to rent in Val-d'Or starting July or August 2012 for one year. If you are looking for a tenant or know of anyone that is thinking of renting out their place please contact me at: katporr@hotmail.ca. Thanks!

EVENTS/RESOURCES

Art Workshops for Youth: If you are between the ages of 15 and 29 you are invited to develop your creativity in weekly stone carving workshops being conducted at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located at 2001 boul. St. Laurent corner Ontario street. Workshops are every Thursday

from 3pm to 6pm. For further information call 514-499-1854.

Need a tutor? The Homework Help Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to Aboriginal youth. The program will match the needs of the Aboriginal youth to McGill students that have knowledge in a particular school subject. To sign up your child or for more info, e-mail to mcgill-homeworkhelp@gmail.com Tutoring held at Inter-Tribal Youth Centre in Mtl.

The Best Story Ever Told is part of the after school series for Aboriginal youth to express their stories through a series of different art and media projects. Free workshops held every Wed from March - June at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre in Mtl. For more info: youth.coordinator@nfc.org or call 514-499-1854 ext. 2229

Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest & Sheldon Currie Fiction Contest. \$2,400 in prizes to be won! Fiction entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2012 and poetry must be postmarked by June 30, 2012. All submissions must be mailed to: The Antigonish Review Contest, P.O. Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2G 2W5. For complete guidelines, email TAR@stfx.ca, call 902-867-3962 or go to www.antigonishreview.com.

The Wapikoni Mobile will be in Manawan between February 10th and March 6th, in Opitciwan from March 2nd to March 27th, and in Uashat mak Mani-Utenam from March 9th to the 3rd of April. Whether they have envisioned their project yet or not, the youth from the communities are invited to meet our filmmakers and interveners. Explore all the possibilities and potential of our mobile studio: screenwriting, directing, camera, photo, sound, editing, sound effects, acting and musical recording!

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Canadian Museum of Civilization Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices (deadline is March 15th, 2012). To learn more about the program, please contact Jameson C. Brant at 819-776-8270; by e-mail jame-

son.brant@civilization.ca or www.civilization.ca/aboriginaltraining

2nd Annual Michele Belanger Women's Basketball Tournament May 4-6, 2012 Timmins, ON (18 years and over). Deadline to register is April 1st. This is a twelve team tournament; Gold, Silver and Bronze medals awarded as well as prizes for tournament all-stars and MVP. To register go to www.timminselects.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333 (www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553 (www.suicide-quebec.net/)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

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INGREDIENTS:

White boneless chicken, water, food starch-modified, salt, seasoning [yeast extract, salt, wheat starch, natural flavoring (botanical source), safflower oil, dextrose, citric acid], sodium phosphate, natural flavor (botanical source). Battered and breaded with: water, enriched flour (bleached wheat flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamin mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), yellow corn flour, bleached wheat flour, food starch-modified, salt, leavening (baking soda, sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium aluminum phosphate, monocalcium phosphate, calcium lactate), spices, wheat starch, dextrose, corn starch. Prepared in vegetable oil (Canola oil, corn oil, soybean oil, hydrogenated soybean oil with tertiary butylhydroquinone and citric acid added to preserve freshness). Dimethylpolysiloxane added as an antifoaming agent.



INGREDIENTS:

Nisk ✓

Meeyoumeechum. Keep it natural.

Less than 5 ingredients. ✓

Ingredients you can pronounce. ✓

Something Gokum would recognize as meechum. ✓



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James

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